

Lt. Rick VanLeuven has 25 years experience with the Spokane County Sheriff's Office.

March 1981 – June 1993: Served as a deputy sheriff and was selected and served as a department Firearms Instructor / Armorer for nine years. Was selected as a Field Training Officer and later assigned to the Investigative Support Unit working undercover drug investigations. Served as an In-service Instructor for the Spokane County Sheriff's Office in Reserve Academy.

June 1993 – 1996: Was promoted to Detective working property crimes investigations. Selected for assignment to the Investigate Support Unit, working drug investigations. Implemented the Gang Unit for the Spokane County Sheriff's Office and became the first Gang Specialist for the Sheriff's Office. Qualified as a gang expert and testified in numerous gang trials. Elected as the Washington State Vice President of the Northwest Gang Investigators Association and recipient of the Metal of Merit for Outstanding Service and Dedication as a Gang Specialist in helping solve two high-profile gang homicides.

1996 – 2002: Promoted to Sergeant in the Patrol Division where he later implemented and supervised the Career Criminal Unit as one of the first proactive street-crimes units within the Sheriff's Office. Additionally helped implement and supervise the Joint Fugitive Task Force with the U.S. Marshalls Service, Joint Spokane Firearms Task Force with ATF and the first Property Crimes Task Force receiving a national award for Property Recovery Unit of the Year from the National Association of Property Recovery Investigators.

2002-Present: Promoted to Lieutenant in the Patrol Division. Supervised the TAC Team as the TAC Team Commander. Elected and served as President of the Inland Empire Police Officers Association. Assigned to the Investigative Support Unit as the Drug Commander, supervising the Drug and Gang units. Liaison with the Spokane Regional Drug Task Force for budget and supervision. Is an active participant in the Drug Endangered Children Program, Meth Action Team, Meth Watch and Drug Court.